# DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS

E-newsletter of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP

UNDP

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## Mongolia Looks to Become Asian IT Leader

A Mongolian information technology company founded by a woman has shown a way to thrive in the country's often-chaotic economic environment. With the global economic crisis moving into its third year, Intec's strategies to survive and thrive offer lessons for other IT start-ups in the South.

While the global economy's prospects are still uncertain, on the positive side, many believe the best place to be is in emerging economies like Mongolia, with some foreseeing healthy growth for the next 20 to 30 years. Mongolia's information technology entrepreneurs are looking to prove this is the case. The country has made great strides in improving e-government – jumping from 82nd place to 53rd in the UN e-government survey 2010 (http://www2.unpan.org/egovkb/global_reports/

10report.htm) – and is now aiming to become an Asian software and IT services outsourcing powerhouse.

A Northeast Asian nation (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongolia) sandwiched between Russia and fast-growing China, Mongolia grapples with the combination of a large territory, a small population (2,641,216) and limited transport infrastructure connecting it to its neighbours. Historically, it is a nomadic nation with a strong animal herding tradition. But during the Communist period, it industrialized and became more urban. After the collapse of Communism at the beginning of the 1990s, the country experienced a terrible economic and social crisis, with rapidly rising poverty rates and high unemployment.

Despite its infrastructure obstacles, Mongolia has been able to develop a lively information technology sector, often with the assistance of the United Nations. During the late 1990s, as the internet revolution exploded, the UN led on supporting infrastructure, skills development, innovation and legislation.

Information technology consulting and services company Intec (www.itconsulting.mn) , founded in 2004, has been able to thrive through the global economy's ups and downs by identifying an under-serviced niche as a consulting, research and training company. Intec now has five full-time staff and works with a broad network of Mongolian and international consultants.

As is often the case with new businesses, Intec initially found that many doors were closed to start-up enterprises.
"The major challenges which I faced were to make people understand about the consulting services," said Intec's founder, Lkhagvasuren Ariunaa. "The consulting services concept was new to Mongolia and Mongolians at that time and not many organizations were willing to work with consulting services. The international and donor organizations were keen to work with consulting services companies; however, they were requiring companies to have a list of successfully implemented projects, which was difficult for a new starter like Intec.

"For example, registering with the Asian Development Bank consulting services database required companies to be operational for at least three years. So, we got registered with ADB consulting services database only in 2008. Meanwhile, personal connections and communication skills helped to find jobs and

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opportunities for Intec."

Ariunaa had worked for the Soros Foundation (http://www.soros.org/) but it closed its offices in Mongolia in 2004. Faced with unemployment, Ariunaa went about seeing what she could do next: a dilemma many people face in today's economy.
"It took me about eight months to develop a business plan and directions of operation of the company. I started in a big room at the national information technology park building with one table, chair and computer.

"It has been quite challenging years for bringing a company to the market and finding niches for us. We have franchised the Indian Aptech WorldWide Training center (http://www.aptech-worldwide.com) in Mongolia - may be one of the few franchising businesses in Mongolia. Currently that center is now a separate entity/company and it has over 20 plus faculty staff and over 300 students."

Ariunaa had been active in the sector for over 10 years, but while knowing many of the players and organizations, she spent time researching what niche Intec could fill in the marketplace.

"Looking at the ICT market, there were quite a number of internet service providers, mobile phone operators, a few companies started developing software applications, and services etc. However, there were only two to three consulting companies in the ICT sector which to my knowledge at that time were providing consulting services, and still there was a room for Intec."

Intec then focused on three areas: consulting services, training and skills, and research. Intec found they were pioneering a new concept in Mongolia.

Intec's first contract was a job with the University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin in the United States to organize a three week course for American students to learn about the digital divide in Mongolia. But the global economic crisis hit Mongolia hard in 2009.

"It was challenging to survive and continue working the same way," Ariunaa said. "There were few ICT-related jobs in Mongolia at that time, and one of our major clients left Mongolia and we had to find other clients in the market.

"One of the ways of approaching this was that we were not asking for fees, instead we would have a barter agreement - we will deliver them services and they will provide some services for us. For the company itself, we needed to find ways of financing and covering costs for renting of premises, paying salaries for staff on time, paying taxes and other expenses."

The environment in Mongolia is being helped by the Information and Communications Technology and Post Authority (ICTPA) of Mongolia (http://www.ictpa.gov.mn), which has been driving forward an e-Mongolia master plan. With 16 objectives, it ambitiously seeks to place Mongolia in the top five of Asian IT nations, competing with South Korea, Singapore, Japan and China.

Ariunaa believes Mongolia has many competitive advantages. "Mongolia is known for a high-literacy rate and math-oriented training and education, and ICT specialists are targeting to become a software outsourcing country for other countries. Another advantage of Mongolians is that they can easily learn other languages: we are fluent in Russian, English, Japanese, Korean, German and we believe that with these two major advantages, we will be able to do a good job with outsourcing of software development."

While men still dominate the ICT sector in Mongolia, Ariunaa has not found being a woman a disadvantage.

"In Mongolia, as gender specialists say, there is a reverse gender situation. Women are educated, well-recognized and well-respected. There were situations, when I was the only women participant in the meeting with about 20 men. But I never felt somewhat discriminated or mis-treated and I think that's the overall situation towards gender in Mongolia."

Intec's success working with Aptech WorldWide Training's franchising contract brought many advantages for a start-up. "It's a faster way to do things, and you don't have to re-invent the wheel."

As a Mongolian company, Intec has found it best to play to its local strengths. "National companies have knowledge, expertise and experience of local situations, know players and understand about legal, regulatory matters. … partnership or cooperation are one of the means of cooperating with big global players."

Intec's success is also down to Ariunaa's enthusiasm: "It's fun and I love doing it - just usually do not have enough time!"

## Links

Advice on starting a business and succeeding in tough economic times.
Website:
http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1073858805

Changing Dynamics of Global Computer Software and Services Industry: Implications for Developing Countries: A report from UNCTAD on how computer software can become the most internationally dispersed high-tech industry.
Website:
http://www.unctad.org/templates/webflyer.asp?docid=1913&intitemid=2529&lang=1

Afrinnovator: Is about telling the stories of African start-ups, African innovation, African made technology, African tech entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs. Their mission is to 'Put Africa on the Map' by covering these kinds of stories from all over Africa. As their website says, "if we don't tell our own story, who will tell it for us?"
Website: http://afrinnovator.com

TechMasai: Pan-African start-up news and reviews.
Website: www.techmasai.com

## African Trade Hub in China Brings Mutual Profits

South-South trade is the great economic success story of the past decade. World Trade Organization (WTO) (www.wto.org) figures show South-South trade accounted for 16.4 percent of the US $14 trillion in total world exports in 2007, up from 11.5 percent of the total in 2000. While the global economic crisis has slowed things down, the overall trend is firmly established.

Trade between China and Africa has surged over the past decade since China joined the WTO in 2001, from around US $10 billion in 2000 to US $73.3 billion in 2007, registering a year-on-year increase of 32.2 percent. In 2008, it soared by 44.1 percent to reach a record high of US $106.84 billion, registering a year-on-year increase of 45.1 percent, according to Zhang Yongpeng of the Institute for West Asian and African Studies (IWAAS).

In the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guangzhou) , a trading hub nicknamed "Africa Town" has emerged since 1998. A conglomeration of buildings around the Xiaobei road in Yuexiu district of the city, it has been equated to the famous Chungking Mansions of Hong Kong (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chungking_Mansions) . There are officially 20,000 African traders and entrepreneurs in the city of 18 million, but unofficial estimates put the number at more than 100,000. This African trading hub has emerged to the benefit of both the Chinese and Africans.

It is a coming together of small traders matching Africa's strong demand for consumer goods with China's manufacturing powerhouse.

The traders export generators, toys, mopeds, construction equipment and other products back to Africa. The traders act as go-betweens, bringing their local knowledge of African market demands to the Chinese manufacturers.
Citizens from over 19 African countries are represented, the majority from Nigeria.

"Almost 90 per cent of goods in African markets come from China, Thailand and Indonesia," Sultane Barry, president of Guangzhou's Guinean community, told the Globe and Mail newspaper.

Barry has an entire floor for business in a 35-storey building packed with shops, offices, freight-forwarding companies, African restaurants, hairdressers and furnished apartments for rent by the week.

"We're not here for fun," said Ibrahim Kader Traore, an entrepreneur from Ivory Coast. "We work hard and do well. In Abidjan, people still swear by France, where you might be able to save US $13,000 over 25 years; in China, you can have US $130,000 in just five years."

A trading success story, the hub has run into problems over visas and the upcoming November Asian Games in Guangzhou, which is increasing identity checks.

"I sell more than 50 per cent of the output of my brother-in-law's TV factory to Africans," one saleswoman told the Globe and Mail. "We need them and I'm worried there are going to be fewer of them."

Brought together by trade and mutual interest, both communities still have much to learn about each other. Relations have had their ups and downs and Africans can face discrimination.

But the trading relationship is teaching both sides important lessons. "The arrival of the Africans taught the Chinese how to look for business opportunities," said Barry. "The secretaries we had here didn't speak a word of English. Our presence started a craze for learning languages: English and French. The Chinese didn't know the basic rules of international trade. They knew nothing about documentary credit. They paid for everything cash in hand.

"The Chinese people will soon realize that it's better for business to deal directly with ordinary Africans."
And the pressure is on to see who will keep trading relations with Africa positive. "The door to the Chinese market has only opened a crack, mostly because visa requirements are so tough," said Zango, a trader from Mali.

## Links

A Financial Times report on Africa-China trade in 2010. Website: http://www.ft.com/reports/africa-china-trade-2010
Website: www.modelvillageindia.org.in

An article about "Africa Town" from the official Guangzhou website.
Website: http://www.lifeofguangzhou.com

Trade Winds: Guangzhou's African Community by Graeme Nicol is a photo book about the community.
Website:  http://graemenicol.com/?page_id=115

## Innovation in Growing Cities to Prevent Social Exclusion

As of 2007, the world became a majority urban place. The largest movements of people in human history are occurring right now, as vast populations relocate to urban and semi-urban areas in pursuit of a better quality of life, or because life has become intolerable where they currently live.

A new book launched during this year's World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil highlights ways in which people across the South are shaping how their cities evolve, insisting that they will not accept social exclusion and demanding a "right to the city."

"A lot of social initiatives based on the right to the city are coming from these 'new cities of the South,' said one of the book's editors, Charlotte Mathivet of Habitat International Coalition in Santiago, Chile. "The book highlights original social initiatives: protests and organizing of the urban poor, such as the pavement dwellers' movements in Mumbai, India where people with nothing,

living on the pavements of a very big city, organize themselves to struggle for their collective rights, just as the park dwellers did in Osaka, Japan."

This first edition of Cities for All: Proposals and Experiences towards the Right to the City, comes in three languages – English (http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3399) , Spanish ( http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3400)  and Portuguese (http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3401)  – is intended to inspire people to tackle positively this fast-changing urban world.

The book's chapters span an eclectic mix of topics, from democracy in the world's future cities to experiences in Africa's cities, to how the 2008 Beijing Olympics affected the metropolis, to ways of involving children in urban planning.

One innovative case study included in the book is the children's workshops in Santiago, Chile, which aim to make a more child-friendly city by including children in the planning process.

One example of the success of a child-friendly approach has been the work of the **former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, Enrique Peñalosa** (http://www.pps.org/epenalosa-2/) . As mayor of the city of over 6.6 million people from 1998 to 2001, he put children to the fore in planning.

**"In Bogotá, our goal was to make a city for all the children,"** he told Yes! magazine. "The measure of a good city is one where a child on a tricycle or bicycle can safely go anywhere. If a city is good for children, it will be good for everybody else. Over the last 80 years we have been making cities much more for cars' mobility than for children's happiness."

His term in office saw the establishment or refurbishing of 1,200 parks and playgrounds, the building of three large and 10 neighbourhood libraries and the opening of 100 nurseries for children under five. He also oversaw the creation of 300 kilometres of bike lanes, the largest such network in the developing world, created the world's longest pedestrian street, at 17 kilometres, and turned land earmarked for an eight-lane highway into a 45 kilometre green belt path.

Cities for All's publisher, Habitat International Coalition (HIC) (www.hic-net.org) , says it focuses on the link between "human habitat, human rights, and dignity, together with people's demands, capabilities, and aspirations for freedom and solidarity."
The group works towards the creation of a theoretical and practical framework for what it calls a "right to the city."

The cities of Africa and Asia are growing by a million people a week. If current trends continue, megacities and sprawling slums will be the hallmarks of this majority urban world. Currently in sub-Saharan Africa, 72 percent of the population lives in slum conditions. And by 2015, there will be 332 million slum-dwellers in Africa, with slums growing at twice the speed of cities.

"The consequences have produced a deeper gap between the city and countryside and also within the city between the rich and poor," said Mathivet.

"We must think of the right to the city as a lively alternative proposal," Mathivet said, "a banner under which social movements, academics, and social organizations are struggling against the perverse effects of neo-liberalism in cities such as the privatization of land, public spaces and services, land speculation, gentrification, forced evictions, segregation, and exclusion."

## Links

Model Village India: Drawing on self-organizing methods used in India since 1200 BC, the Model Village India is based around India's democratic system of Panchayats: a village assembly of people stemming back to pre-colonial times.
Website: www.modelvillageindia.org.in

More Urban, Less Poor: The first textbook to explore urban development and management and challenge the notion unplanned shanty towns without basic services are the inevitable consequence of urbanization.
Website: www.earthscan.co.uk

Building and Social Housing Foundation: The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) is an independent research organisation that promotes sustainable development and innovation in housing through collaborative research and knowledge transfer.
Website: http://www.bshf.org

World Social Forum Dakar, Senegal 2011.
Website: www.worldsocialforum.info

## BOOKS

**Losing Control: The Emerging Threats to Western Prosperity**
by Stephen D King, Publisher: Yale
Website: www.amazon.com

**The Global Economic Crisis: The Great Depression of the XXI Century**
by Michel Chossudovsky and Andrew Gavin Marshall, Publisher: Global Research.
Website: http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10

**Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity**
*by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan*
Website: http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073

**The Violence of Financial Capitalism**
*by Christian Marazzi, Publisher: MIT Press*
Website: http://mitpress.mit.edu

**Bonfire of Illusions: The Twin Crises of the Liberal World**
*by Alex Callinicos, Publisher: John Wiley and Sons*
Website: www.politybooks.com

**In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World**
*by Judith A. Carney and Richard Nicholas Rosomoff, Publisher: University of California Press*
Website: http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/11239.php

**Democracy and Other Neoliberal Fantasies**
*by Jodi Dean, Publisher: Duke University Press*
Website: www.combinedacademic.co.uk

**Technocapitalism: A Critical Perspective on Technological Innovation and Corporatism**
*by Luis Suarez-Villa, Publisher: Temple University Press*
Website: www.combinedacademic.co.uk

**Terrorism and the Economy: How the War on Terror is Bankrupting the World**
*by Loretta Napoleoni, Publisher: Seven Stories Press*
Website: www.amazon.com

**The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between the Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World**
*by Jacqueline Novogratz, Publisher: Acumen Fund*
Website: http://www.acumenfund.org/bluesweater/

**Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind**
*by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press*
Website: http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

**State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability**
*by Erik Assadourian & Staff, Publisher: Worldwatch Institute, 2010*
Website: http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10

**China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit?**
*by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development*
Website: http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

## PAPERS

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**The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050**
*by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation.*
*Working Paper: Shifting Global Power*

Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy.
Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf

**The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada**
*Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power*
This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development.
Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

**The MDGs and Beyond: Pro-Poor Policy in a Changing World**
*by Andy Summer and Claire Melamed, Publisher: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.*
Website: http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv06n03page5sumnermelamed.html

## WEB BASED ARTICLES

**The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth"**
Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010
Website: http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf

**Africa begins to make poverty history**
US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case.
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-povery-history

**Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment**
Website: http://triplecrisis.com/

**Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity**
*by Dr Jing Gu*
Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa.
Website: http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity

**Human Development Report 2009 Publisher: United Nations Development Programme**
The Report explores how better policies towards mobility can enhance human development
Website: www.unp.un.org

**China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities**
*by Leslie Chang, Publisher: Picador.*
Website: www.amazon.com

**When China Rules the World**
*by C. Fred Bergstan, Charles Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek J. Mitchell, Publisher: Peterson Institute for International Economics*
Website: www.piie.com

**Peoplequake: Mass Migration, Ageing Nations and the Coming Population Crash**
*by Fred Pearce, Publisher: Eden Project*
Website: www.amazon.com

**Raising the Global Floor: Dismantling the Myth That We Can't Afford Good Working Conditions for Everyone**
*by Jody Heyman and Alison Earle, Publisher: Stanford University Press*
Website: www.sup.org

**Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide**
*by Nicholas D. Kirstof and Sheryl WuDunn, Publisher: Knopf*
Website: www.amazon.com

**Gravity Shift: How Asia's New Economic Powerhouses Will Shape the 21st Century**
*by Wendy Dobson, Publisher: Rotman UTP*
Website: www.utpublishing.com

**Top African Banker Defends Investment from China**
*by Anne Seith, Publisher: Spiegel Online*
Website: http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,674887,00.html#ref=nlint

**Africa: Africa's Counter-Cyclical Policy Responses to the Crisis**
*by Louis Kasekende, Zuzana Brixova and Leonce Ndikumana, Journal of Globalization and Development, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 2010, Article 16*
Website: http://www.afdb.org

## Upcoming Events

### July

**UN Development Cooperation Forum**
*New York, USA (TBC July 2010)*
The biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is one of the principal new functions of a strengthened Economic and Social Council. Mandated to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it, the DCF will be held every other year within the framework of the High-level Segment of the Council.
Website: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/develop.shtml

**TED Global 2010: And Now the Good News**
*Oxford, UK (12-16 July 2010)*
TEDGlobal 2010, held over the course of four days in Oxford, will explore the shocking undercurrent of good news just below the surface of today's troubling headlines. Headlines remind us daily of the political, economic and environmental woes facing the planet. But behind the scenes lie an amazing array of new ideas, new science, new technology, new social and political thinking, new art and a new understanding of who we are. When you put it all together, an entirely more hopeful view of the future emerges. Many of the remarkable architects of that future -- those who are pushing the boundaries of what is known and expanding the possible -- will join us at TEDGlobal 2010, from all over the world. We will make a full announcement of the program in the months leading up to the conference.
Website: http://conferences.ted.com/TEDGlobal2010/

### August

**Have an even in August you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com**

### September

**World Water Week 2010**
*Stockholm, Sweden (5-11 September 2010)*
The Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between the scientific, business, policy and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, economic and poverty reduction agendas.
Website: http://www.worldwaterweek.org/

**Millennium Development Goals Summit**
*New York, USA (20-22 September 2010)*
With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs. Read the Secretary-General's report, "Keeping the Promise", which serves as the basis for Member States' deliberations on an action-oriented outcome document for the Summit. It identifies successes and gaps, and lays out an agenda for 2010-2015. "Our world possesses the knowledge and resources to achieve the MDGs," Mr. Ban says in the report. Falling short of the Goals "would be an unacceptable failure, moral and practical."
Website: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

### October

**Asia Microfinance Forum 2010**
*Colombo, Sri Lanka (12-15 October 2010)*
This milestone event will bring together leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas, opportunities and partnerships. The BWTP network actively promotes the development of microfinance in Asia through research, advocacy, policy dialogue, information sharing and capacity building.

## November

### Water Investment World Africa 2010
_Johannesburg, South Africa (8-11 November 2010)_
The Conference is positioned to the decision makers in this sector. With over 340million people in Africa without access to water and African governments' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a lot needs to be accomplished in a very short time in this sector.
Website:  http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/waterza/

## December

### International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development
_London, UK (13-16 December 2010)_
CALL FOR PAPERS: The call for papers and sessions at ICTD2010 has recently been announced - with a deadline for submissions of 2nd April 2010.
The conference is the latest in the series of highly successful international ICTD conferences held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the field.
Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, demos and sessions in both Spanish and French. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds.
ICTD2010 is being hosted by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and the multidisciplinary ICT4D Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London's magnificent campus situated only 20 minutes from London's Heathrow airport.
Website:  http://www.ictd2010.org/

### APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011:
The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony.

Transitions Online (TOL) is pleased to announce the launch
of the 2009 TOL Photo Competition.
The topic is "20 Years After the Fall of the Iron Curtain",
and TOL encourages participants to submit photographs that
best capture the changes over the past 20 years in Central
and Eastern Europe.
DEADLINE: December 13, 2009.

Website: http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00
Website: http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?
IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946

### African Economic Outlook
EDUCATING AFRICA: Pan African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education 2009
Now in its third year, the EDUCATING AFRICA Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education continue to seek to identify the very best organizations which have risen to this challenge; to highlight their models, and to reward their achievements. As well as a first prize of $10,000 and two runners-up prizes of $5,000, there are up to 50 awards of $1,000 available for the best entry from every country on the continent.
DEADLINE: December 31, 2009
Website: http://bit.ly/3rtAQT

### Appeal for Help
MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.
Website:  http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3

**MobileTech4SocialChange**
They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.
Website: http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/

## Training Opportunities

### Ongoing

**Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs**
Website: www.grameen-info.org

**The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses**
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.
Website: ocw.mit.edu

**Sustainable Tourism Criteria**
The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism   s social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.
Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

**Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners**
The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor.  Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small.  Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.
Website: http://rs6.net

### Careers

**Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website**
Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.
Website: www.devex.org

**New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**
Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.
Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

**African Diaspora Skills Database**
This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.
Website: www.diaspora-centre.org

**Aid Workers Network (AWN)**
Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.
Website: www.aidworkers.net

**Bizzlounge**
Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.
Website: bizzlounge.com

## Business Action for Africa
Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.
Website: businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com

## Business Fights Poverty
Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.
Website: businessfightspoverty.ning.com

## Business in Development Network (BiD)
The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.
Website: www.bidnetwork.org

## Catalogue of Poverty Networks
UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC s collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.
Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org

## Connections for Development (CfD)
CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest   collectively   our world
Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

## Development Crossing
Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.
Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

## DevelopmentAid.org
The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.
Website: www.developmentaid.org

## dgCommunities on the Development Gateway
dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.
Website: topics.developmentgateway.org

## Diaspora African Forum
This Forum exists ''to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent''. We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.
Website: www.diasporaafricanforum.org

## Eldis Communities
Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.
Website: community.eldis.org

## Enterprise Development Exchange
The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.
Website: edexchange.seepnetwork.org

## Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum
The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world   s five continents.
Website: http://km.fao.org/fsn/

## Global Development Matters
Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.
Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

## GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.
Website: Africa | Middle East and North Africa | Asia

### LED knowledge
This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.
Website: www.ledknowledge.org

### Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)
Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.
Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/

### TakingITGlobal.org
TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.
Website: profiles.takingitglobal.org

### XING Group Microfinance Industry
In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.
Website: www.xing.com/

### AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service
AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.
Website: www.afdevinfo.com

### Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)
The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.
Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

## Fellowship Opportunities

### Africa Entrepreneurship Platform
This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.
Website: www.sacca.biz

### Piramal Foundation in India
Has established a US $25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a $25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India s rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India s health-care crisis.
Website: www.piramalprize.org/

### The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award
This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.
Website: pioneersofprosperity.org

### African Writers Fund
Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.
Website: www.trustafrica.org

### Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme
Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research

Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research),
University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.
Email: namstct@vsnl.com
Website: www.scidev.net

### Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website
Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000
registered projects.
Website: www.devex.org

### Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition
Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at
Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of Â£2,000 in seed capital is
up for grabs. It calls itself the    world    s first global youth development competition    .
Website: More Information

### US$250,000 for Best Lab Design
AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of $250,000 for the best
design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.
Website: www.openarchitecturenetwork.org

### PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana
The University of Ghana has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a
Green Revolution in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop
Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and
international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply
for a fellowship under this programme.
Website: www.acci.org.za

### Institute of Social Studies in The Hague
A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development,
www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources
in international development.
Website: http://focuss.info/

### Genesis: India    s Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition
A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs,
students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them
to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.
Website: http://genesis.iitm.ac.in

### Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund
They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems.
They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US
$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs.
Website: www.echoinggreen.org

### Funding

### UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation
The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and
Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the
auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national
science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to
organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre
conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation
policy-making in developing countries.
Website: www.unesco.org

### Funding - Google.org
While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal
economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing
returns    and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a
trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase
this flow.
Website: www.google.org

### Challenge InnoCentive
A challenge to the world    s inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological
problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.
Website: http://www.innocentive.com

### Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US $20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship
Offered by Santa Clara University    s Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20
enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process.
This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their
mentors.
Website: http://www.socialedge.org

### Job Opportunities

- Africa Recruit Job Compendium
- Africa Union
- CARE
- Christian Children_s Fund
- ECOWAS
- International Crisis Group
- International Medical Corps
- International Rescue Committee
- Internews
- IREX
- Organization for International Migration
- Oxfam

- Relief Web Job Compendium (UN OCHA) (1)
- Relief Web Job Compendium (UN OCHA) (2)
- Save the Children
- The Development Executive Group job compendium
- Trust Africa
- UN Jobs
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- UNICEF
- World Bank
- World Wildlife Fund (Cameroon)

Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta [cosmas.gitta@undp.org] Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation